

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 are all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyahara et al ('751 A) in view of Arakawa et al (JP '528 A), Mussig ('353 B1) or Matsui et al (EP '354 A2).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons as follows.

Miyahara et al teaches a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape for repairing a corroded area of a coated steel plate. The tape is adhered to a corroded area, and a paint is applied thereon. A pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed in a thickness of 0.1-0.5 mm contacts a steel plate surface and adheres thereto. As a result, it is possible to prevent penetration of moisture from an adhering interface. A non-woven fabric promotes adhesiveness of a paint, thereby preventing the paint from peeling. A film formed between the non-woven fabric and the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer prevents penetration of moisture from a vertical direction.

Applicants submit that the tape of Miyahara et al is far remote from the object of the present invention in the constitution and the method of use. In particular, the tape of Miyahara et al provides a permanent adhesion, and is designed so that it is difficult to peel off the tape from an adherend. Therefore, it would not have been motivation to use the tape of Miyahara et al to achieve the present invention, which requires releasability.

Further, assuming *arguendo* that a *prima facie* case might have been established, Applicants submit that the present invention provides unexpectedly superior results.

Miyahara et al discloses that the adhesive sheet prevents penetration of the moisture in a perpendicular direction and permeation, and holds the adhesion to a surface of metal for a long period of time ([0029]).

On the other hand, as described in the Abstract, the present invention provides sheets for protecting paint films of automobiles, which are excellent in durability, function of protecting paint films and peelability. The results in Table 1 also show that the present invention is excellent in the follow-up performance to curved surfaces and peelability. Miyahara et al does not teach or suggest these advantages of using the adhesive sheets in protecting paint films of automobiles.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Seth ('964) in view of Arakawa et al, Mussig or Matsui et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons as follows.

Assuming *arguendo* and without admitting that a *prima facie* case might have been established, Applicants submit that the present invention provides unexpectedly superior results.

Seth only discloses the adhesion strength of the adhesive tape (Examples). On the other hand, as described in the Abstract, the present invention provides sheets for protecting paint films of automobiles, which are excellent in durability, function of protecting paint films and peelability (Abstract). The results in Table 1 also show that the present invention is excellent in

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/311,753

the follow-up performance to curved surfaces and peelability. Seth does not teach or suggest these advantages of using the adhesive tapes in protecting paint films of automobiles.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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